

MAY, 1944

The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



Official Magazine

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD
TEAMSTERS . . . CHAUFFEURS
WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS
OF AMERICA

Out of the Gutter---Into the G.O.P.

—See inside back cover

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Support Friends of Labor

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

DON'T get into any disagreeable arguments with officers or members of the trade union movement because of the political situation. It is true that it is irritating to see a labor man advocating the election of a candidate who has never done anything for labor and whose party has been against labor.

We must, however, understand that a man has the right to his political beliefs, unless, of course, he is under instructions from a convention of his International Union, and then if he desires to defy the action of his own convention he can do so privately when he is casting his ballot in secret.

But he should not advocate the election of someone against a candidate who has been indorsed, for labor reasons, by his International Union. Insofar as the officers of other unions and their members are concerned, that is a matter for them to decide.

We have no right to either insult them or deny them their right to exercise their conscience.

We have, however, a right to disagree with them and endeavor to tell our position and our reasons anywhere, but if we have that right, the other individual has the same right. Remember that no matter who is elected we must live together in this country after the election, and as real Americans, we should not unnecessarily get bitter over the contest.

We have no right to charge a man with dishonesty in political life or to charge a union man with dishonesty of purpose and expression, unless we have some proof. The labor movement has almost entirely eliminated religious prejudice, which at one time was rather bitter.

It is now engaged in the struggle to eliminate racial prejudice and it is having considerable success. We must, therefore, also eliminate political prejudice. You cannot convince a man as to your position by insulting him or by attacks. If your cause is right you may be able to convince him by reasonable explanations.

There are, of course, individuals who put politics ahead of their religion, and because they were born and raised in a district professing a certain political belief, they blindly follow on, and in some instances we feel they would rather give up their union than give up their political faith. Those cases are very rare.

It is my understanding and my belief that the labor vote, with its friends are independent and are not tied to any party. They may, however, in accordance with their understanding of the labor movement and the progress it has made, support a certain candidate without supporting the whole party.

Let us keep in mind the honesty of our position and let us try to understand who that is running for office has been the friend of labor; and then let us try to convince those around us as to the justice of our beliefs. There is nothing that the enemies of labor would like better than to see labor getting into the clinches of political, religious or racial disagreements.

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CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

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MAY, 1944

Number 6

Gov. Bricker Blathers of Strikes

Taft Stooze Should Be Opposed by Labor

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

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G OVERNOR JOHN W. BRICKER of Ohio made a speech the other day in Little Rock, Arkansas, in which he made the following statement:

"Labor must be free to work and to organize, but in time of war no group or union should be permitted to strike."

Of course Governor Bricker in his candidacy for the Republican nomination for the presidency is just a front man for Senator Taft.

We will not go into Taft just now, but we would say that those statements should eliminate the support of labor from Bricker. But we do not need to worry. He will not get the nomination from the Republicans. There is a chance, however, that he may be considered for the Vice-Presidency.

We would not need to fear him as Vice-President if he is selected, except in the contacts that he could make out in the cloak room of the Senate. The influence of the Vice-President is almost nil in the Senate chamber. His only influence would be, if he is a first-rate mixer and entertainer, that he might be able to influence some of the members in the cloak rooms. That was Jack Garner's greatest quality.

No one understands more thoroughly than the labor men of America the necessity

of the continuation of work during war; and I repeat, no class of men in this country, including the governors and the senators, have done more to keep the battle-fronts supplied with all the instruments of war, than have the trade union leaders of America.

The trouble is that because one union went out on strike and embarrassed the government—and by the way, the principal leader in that union is a Republican and a great friend of Bricker's—the rest of the labor unions throughout the nation have been held responsible for strikes. As a matter of fact, when the men of labor pledged themselves to the government at the beginning of the war and after the creation of the War Labor Board, that they would do everything within their power to prevent strikes and to encourage men to remain at work, the only real danger there was of destroying that pledge was the Smith-Connally bill and other pieces of legislation which insulted the multitudes of organized workers.

There was no need for any of that legislation because labor was doing a better job than even the men of labor anticipated when the "no strike" pledge was made.

Then again, Bricker and his class pay no attention to and place no blame on chiseling employers who have, in many instances, deliberately and willfully defied men to go on strike by declaring to their employees that they did not dare go on strike in violation of the pledge made by their leaders.

And in many instances, as we have said more than once in the columns of this journal, some of those same employers—not a great many—violated the working contracts, refused to abide by decisions of the War Labor Board, and cheated, chiseled

and defrauded the workers of their honest earnings. Bricker and his associates never refer to this.

We do not for one moment say there haven't been a few instances of small strikes, but they didn't amount to anything and lasted for only three or four days.

They were brought about because men working every day sometimes cannot understand the situation as the men in public office or as their leaders understand it, and those who are working under what they believe unjust conditions and being, as they believe, cheated by their employers, cannot wait indefinitely for decisions by the War Labor Board.

In such cases they have gone on strike for a few days.

But in nearly every instance there has been no long, serious strike outside of what happened in the coal mining industry, which strike the men of labor had nothing to do with. It was a matter between the coal miners, the coal operators and the government.



President Tobin

But Governor Bricker and those who carry on with him make no reference at all to the other 240 International Unions and the innumerable local unions, to the splendid service rendered by those organizations through the influence and appeals and reasoning conveyed to the members by the officers of those unions.

The trouble with Bricker and other so-called "saviors of humanity" is that they are surrounded by a certain class of employers who still believe in the old relationship of master and slave.

Governor Bricker also loses sight of the fact that insofar as legislation passed during the war is concerned, there will be strong attempts made by those who helped to enact

that legislation, if they still remain in office, to continue it after the war is ended.

Now they seemingly can get any kind of anti-labor legislation through the Congress.

We are reminded of the statement made many years ago by a great patriot who was misunderstood, when he said, "Patriotism, how many sins and crimes are committed in thy name!" So it is now with a great number of politicians. They are using the war to hamstringing labor, in the hope that they may be able to continue adverse, unjust labor legislation when the war is over.

The millions of young men wearing the uniform of our country, scattered throughout the world, would be helpless were it not for the millions of workers at home who supply them with the necessary implements of war.

No credit is given by public speakers or men seeking political office to the myriads of toilers and the great work they have done in remaining at work under an awful, continuous strain, in order that our armies and our navy could be supplied with the necessary arms and ammunition, the ships and the planes that were needed to carry on the war.

The men and women of labor in the industrial trenches and foxholes are unappreciated by the politicians of Bricker's type.

A short time ago Prime Minister Churchill made a statement over the air that the United States now has more planes than all of their enemies combined. He also made the statement that the United States had outstripped England in the number of planes available, and England was far ahead of us when we entered the war, because she had been in over two years before we entered. This is never referred to when men like Governor Bricker want to take a slap at labor.

How about the innumerable ships that have been turned out by the ship workers? I believe I can safely say that we have more ships on the sea now than all of our enemies, and more ships perhaps than both of our allies, England and Russia.

Who did this work? Was it men like Governor Bricker and his associates? No, it was the organized, union workers employed in the shipyards. Is there ever any glory given to those men? Of course not. That would not be in style, not quite the thing for leaders in the political life of our nation.

However, men like Henry Kaiser and Donald Nelson and the President of the United States haven't hesitated to tell the truth on matters of this kind.

We want no glory, because we did our jobs as Americans, for the preservation of our own freedom and the freedom of the world. But neither do we want to be smeared through insinuations and false statements that get into the press, when they are made against labor, which, if we attempted to answer, our answers would not be published.

Governor Bricker also makes the statement that he believes labor "must be free to work and to organize." The laws of the land have said for the past 40 years that labor must be free to organize.

That law was tested in the United States Supreme Court and was upheld even when the court was packed with labor-haters. When he says, "labor must be free to work," his meaning—very cleverly hidden to some—is that two or three non-union men in a factory that employs ten thousand union men, should be permitted to work.

In other words, they should be allowed to reap the rewards of the struggles made by union men and to evade their share of the expense of the organization, under the guise of such statements as "labor must be free to work," "Americans are free men," etc. That's the open shop, which at one time was the "closed shop" to union labor.

Such blathering and spouting has been heard by many of us for the past 40 years, but it ill becomes men holding high positions like Governor Bricker, who received the votes of thousands of workers in the State of Ohio, to try to resurrect such an

old, worn-out fallacy—the right of a few non-union men in a large plant where the employers agree to the union shop, to defy the other ninety-nine and nine-tenths per cent of the workers in the same factory or shop.

We are going to hear a great deal of this same kind of talk during the next few months, but it should be remembered by the men and women of labor—organized and unorganized—that your freedom is slowly, surely, and carefully being attacked, and that the conditions which we have won over

half a century of struggle are endangered by men of this type who are carefully carrying out the wishes of the labor-hating employers.

Men of this type also believe if they can attract the attention of the public to the labor unions and their so-called misdeeds, then the fire will be taken off the crooked insurance companies and the profit-making racketeers in business, who have wallowed in enormous profits while the best blood of the toilers has been freely given to save the civilization of the world.

Roosevelt Judges Approve Miners' Pay Claims

WE REJOICE at the victory coming to the metal miners as a result of the decision of the United States Supreme Court upholding their claim, which states that mine workers going down under the ground to work are entitled to their pay from the time they enter the mine until they come out.

Those of us who knew the hardships of the miners many years ago and never anticipated such a result, are deeply and sincerely appreciative of the work that has been done by the unions of miners. They have brought about a complete revolution within the industry, to the benefit of the individual workers and, we might add, to the benefit of the owners of the mines, because from the last financial reports we received, all classes of mine owners are making enormous profits.

Of course this may be due to the war, but before the war they were also showing substantial profits, proving again that bettering the conditions of the workers, increasing wages and reducing the hours of labor does not reduce profits, but helps the industry.

This is also true in our own trade and calling. The truck owners of America today who pay decent wages are making more

money per man and per dollar invested, than the old employing team owners who were scratching along from day to day, barely living, and who paid starvation wages for long hours of labor.

We notice, however, that in the decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, out of the seven judges voting, there were two outstanding gentleman who voted against the portal to portal pay, or against the miners.

Just remember who they were—Justice Roberts and Justice Stone. Both of those men were appointed many years ago, before the advent of the present administration. The five judges who voted for the mine workers, which decision was based on justice, were appointed since March, 1933, or since Roosevelt became President.

And still, isn't it pitiful to find that many men in the miners group are bitterly opposed to the administration that has given them the justice to which they are entitled, and in many instances helped to organize the mine workers through progressive legislation, thereby bringing about the splendid conditions which they now enjoy and which we hope will continue and be improved upon as time goes on?

Congress votes millions of dollars to import farm workers from Mexico and the West Indies, and at the same time "freezes" thousands of workers in southern states who will be idle six or eight months this year.—Boilermakers' Journal.

C. I. O. Raids Detroit Teamsters

— Shameful Action Reflects on Labor Integrity

OUR hats are off to General Organizer R. J. Bennett, Jimmie Hoffa, and Bert Brennan of Detroit for the manner in which they are fighting to defend their jurisdiction against the raiders who call themselves trade unionists and who are members of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees of America, an affiliated, chartered organization of the CIO.

The head of this CIO organization is a man named Samuel Wolchok, who has headquarters in New York.

About the first week in February in the city of Detroit, the drivers and helpers employed by the Dossin Food Products Company, who handle Pepsi-Cola—drivers who were working under a signed union contract with the check-off system agreed to and in practice—four of them notified the company that they desired to have the company cease deducting their dues from their payroll checks and open up machinery for the discussion of a new contract.

These men were the highest paid driver-salesmen in the city of Detroit. On investigation we found they were averaging about \$81 for a normal week.

Remember these four members of a union of over 200 did not consult the business agents and did not consult their local union, but took the law into their own hands and violated the existing agreement by the above procedure. Further investigations we have made lead us to believe that they are emissaries or agents, boring from within, of the CIO union referred to above.

These four individuals, for violating the laws of the union and for refusing to recognize the representatives of the union of which they were members, had charges properly prepared and preferred against them, in accordance with the laws of the International Union.

Further following out our laws, they were

instructed to appear before the local executive board. Some of them appeared and some stayed away, but the trial went on, and the unanimous decision of the local executive board was that they were guilty of violating the laws of the local and International Union and violating the contract under which they were working which had been signed and approved by the local and by the employers. The local had a union shop contract with the employer.

The employer was notified, in accordance with the contract, that these men were no longer members of the local union and that the contract should be observed and carried out, and that the contract specified that only members of the local union and the International could be employed at this work. The employer complied with the contract and these men were notified that their services were discontinued because they were no longer members of the local union.

After this happened these four individuals, who, we repeat, we suspect were boring from within and were agents of the CIO union referred to above, began to immediately appeal to the other drivers, who, in turn, without seriously considering what they were doing and without asking for an explanation from the officers of the union, ceased work, violating the laws and rules of the union and ignoring the machinery set up for the consideration of grievances.

This is where Brothers Bennett, Hoffa and Brennan come in. They immediately organized enough drivers and helpers from our other unions, assisted by the business agents, themselves leading the line, and took out the trucks of the company and made the deliveries, and the customers of the company are being supplied and the trade of this corporation has been protected and preserved.

The corporation, we must say in passing,

is standing by the union and carrying out its contract.

In the meantime, those four ex-members of Local No. 337 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, with the other foolish men who joined them, went over to the office of the United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, the CIO outfit, and were received with open arms and promised every aid and assistance within the power of this CIO International Union.

We have heard that they were accepted into membership and are now being given certain financial aid and all the encouragement that it is possible for them to receive from the CIO; and funds are being solicited and collected from the other CIO unions, under false pretenses, to carry on the fight of those men who broke their obligation to our organization, and who would betray any union if the opportunity presented itself, in our judgment.

It is a pity and a shame that we have to waste our money and our energies fighting each other. Certainly if some dissatisfied individuals broke their agreement with the Auto Workers or the Rubber Workers, or any other CIO organization, they could not and would not get aid and assistance from the Teamsters.

Of course if they were truck drivers and helpers that would be a different thing, because that is our jurisdiction.

But when ordinary men who are clearly covered by the recognized jurisdiction of another union are given aid, encouragement and assistance to defy the laws of that other union and to break contracts, and to create secession and disturbance in an industry at any time, but especially during war—well, all we can say is that the worst enemies that labor has are not altogether the employers or the chiseling, middle-of-the-road politicians.

Some of the worst enemies labor has are a few men who call themselves labor representatives within certain labor organizations.

Of course, we will defend the jurisdiction

of the International Union and we will defend the employers and protect the contracts we have signed. And if necessary—although we hope we will not be compelled to do so—we will dispute every inch of ground with those who are attempting to destroy our legitimate trade union organizations in Detroit or elsewhere.

Again our hats are off to the representatives of our International Union and our local unions in Detroit, and to all of those whom we have not named who are making the sacrifice they are called upon to make in defense of union contracts and legitimate, fair employers, as well as our International.

Better for the CIO to take the money they are squandering in Michigan for the purpose of attempting to break up a legitimate local union of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and use that money in endeavoring to defeat Congressman Hoffman who is vilifying labor and the President of the United States at every opportunity.

They had better use that money to defeat their enemies who will have a strangle hold on them when the time comes—men like Hoffman—than to be using their money and other means they are employing in endeavoring to defeat decent unions and honest employers.

The pity of it all is that we must tell the story to our people through the columns of our magazine, and of course this also gets into the hands of the enemies of labor.

And again we point out the fact that labor is in danger of being seriously set back by its combined enemies, perhaps before, but certainly after the ending of the war. But if labor was solidified, unified, and using its energies and its intelligence and its combined efforts, politically and economically, against its enemies, it would undoubtedly survive and be stronger after the war to combat its local enemies.

But while labor is divided and while the leaders of labor lack the courage or the brains to tell their people when they are wrong to "cease firing," then the future of labor is in serious danger.

Churchill! Stalin! DEWEY?

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

HERBERT LEHMAN, governor of New York, a Democrat, made Tom Dewey. Of course this is not denying that Tom Dewey had both courage and ability. When a special prosecuting attorney was to be appointed to go after racketeers, gangsters and crooks in the New York underworld, many Democratic lawyers connected with Tammany Hall and elsewhere turned down the offer of Governor Lehman.

Tom Dewey, a young attorney practicing law, trying to make a living, was offered the position and he accepted it. Everyone knows how he made good. He was both courageous and honest. We also believe that as governor of New York he cannot be dishonestly influenced or threatened.

Herbert Hoover was over on the other side of the world for so many years that nobody had heard of him, except once in a while his name would appear in the London papers or the London courts on something or other.

When the war broke out, because he knew conditions on the other side of the water, Woodrow Wilson made him food administrator, and his job was to see to it that food coming from the United States was honestly and fairly distributed amongst the starving peoples of Europe.

At that time no one knew whether Hoover was a Republican or a Democrat. Undoubtedly he was a Republican, although he had not participated in the affairs of our country for a number of years.

In 1920 Harding was elected President of the United States, the greatest blundering mistake ever made by the people. In the early twenties Hoover was appointed as secretary of commerce.

He used to visit the executive council of the American Federation of Labor when in session, and he talked to us in a friendly,

sympathetic manner. We believe Hoover was a thoroughly honest man financially; that is, he would not sell his influence for money considerations.

He was not, however, a strong man because he was influenced by the ringleaders who were closely associated with big business in Wall Street, and without going any further, we should not forget who Harry Daugherty was, the attorney general who appointed Burns as his chief investigator, a man who would not stop at anything to accomplish his ends, even to kidnapping; and perhaps it is just as well we do not go any further on the Harding-Daugherty lineup.

But the point we are trying to make is that a Democratic governor made Tom Dewey by giving him a chance to demonstrate what he was as a criminal lawyer; and Woodrow Wilson made Herbert Hoover by appointing him food administrator with headquarters in London during the last war.

But a man can be a good prosecutor and also a fairly good governor and know very little about national or world affairs. Hoover knew something about European and Asiatic politics, but he did not know enough about the science of politics in the United States. He was a flop from the beginning. Political responsibility needs training, especially when we are in a life-and-death struggle to save our freedom and our country.

At this writing it looks very much as though Tom Dewey would get the Republican nomination. Willkie apparently is washed up. Some time ago we wrote an article saying that Dewey would be the strongest Republican candidate in New York State against Roosevelt, if Roosevelt runs, as we believe he will—but throughout the rest of the country the people will not think of this country alone.

They will think of the whole world and they will decide who the best man is to handle the dangerous affairs confronting civilization at this time. You can imagine Franklin Roosevelt sitting down with Joe Stalin and with Churchill.

You can rest assured that Roosevelt can hold his own because he knows all the intrigues and all the different traps of European politics. There has been no one who could compare as statesmen and great leaders in Europe with Churchill and Stalin, except perhaps men like Bismarck and Gladstone, and they never had the world problems to handle that the present-day statesmen are confronted with.

Then picture in your mind's eye, Tom Dewey, a good fellow, a fine criminal lawyer in New York, sitting down between these two master minds that have been trained in intricate, delicate, military and political affairs in Europe for the past 25 or 30 years—I repeat, where do you think Tom Dewey would fit in that picture?

It isn't human to expect that he could equal a man who has had a lifetime experience and who has been up against the fire-works since the war began two or three years ago.

What the voters of the nation will have to consider is that not only is their own present safety at stake in this war, but the

safety of future generations is involved, and when the war is over it will necessitate the most able minds that the world has produced to make plans around the peace table for the protection of humanity against future wars.

Let it be distinctly understood here that the writer is not trying to force any candidate on any individual. We are merely endeavoring to set forth the facts for your judgment and consideration. Our executive committee may or may not express itself later on. You will hear a lot more on both sides, but it is for you not only to exercise your right to vote, but to realize that by your vote next November you may have it within your power to decide whether we shall have justice, civilization and human rights protected, or whether we shall have savagery, debauchery and slaughter continue indefinitely.

Those educated labor haters who think they can kill the efficiency or progress of labor unions are more blind than the proverbial ostrich that sticks its head in the sand.

The more labor is persecuted the stronger it will finish when the battle is over, and when the battle is over the danger then is it will pay back "an eye for an eye." That's what the Russian workers did to the Romanoffs and their mob. Unfortunately sometimes history repeats itself.

International Won't Answer Letters of Members

I HAVE repeatedly stated in the columns of our journal that the International office will not answer letters coming in from individual members. In the first place, we do not know whether the individual is a member or not. Next, even if we did, we could not take care of the communications from over 600,000 members. Next, the laws of the organization provide that the seal of the local union must appear on any letter to receive the consideration of the International Union.

If an individual has some appeal or grievance, he should take it into his local union,

and if it is worth-while, I am sure the local union will, through its secretary, forward it to the International office. Of course some members give you the old excuse that they cannot get any action in the local union.

We cannot accept that as an answer, because any man who has a cause that is worth consideration can go to the local union and get recognition in the meeting of the local union. We do not want local unions to endorse or place their stamp of approval on protests and grievances and complaints brought up by cranks or those who are considered chronic objectors.—D. J. T.

Power Companies Evade Taxes

They Just Add Them to Your Light Bill

BY FEDERAL JUDGE HOMER T. BONE

The last article Bone wrote for this magazine was as the liberal United States senator from the State of Washington. Since then he has been appointed to the federal bench by President Roosevelt in recognition of years of faithful service to the public. Bone was the senator who exposed the corruption surrounding the Anaconda case which was followed by the resignation of Judge Slick of Indiana. If Anaconda or any other corrupt company is ever convicted in the court of Judge Bone, they won't be dismissed with love and kisses.

IN THIS grim life and death struggle with the axis powers, our government has found it necessary to draw heavily on the financial resources of our people. The frightful financial drain has led to levels of taxation not only higher than those ever applied before, but much higher than any suggested at the outset of the war.

If the crisis deepens, we may expect even further increases in taxation, and this despite the fact that arguments are being advanced that an increase in present tax levels will merely invoke the law of diminishing returns. Such an argument presents a debatable question.

The status of private electric power companies of the United States in this tax picture is indeed an interesting one. Under systems of so-called state regulation of rates and charges, these private outfits are permitted to add to electric bills, and pass on to the consumer every penny of all the taxes they pay to local, state and federal governments.

Taxes have also been declared by the courts to be an "operating expense," and stand in the same category as wages paid out by these concerns. Since all of this is

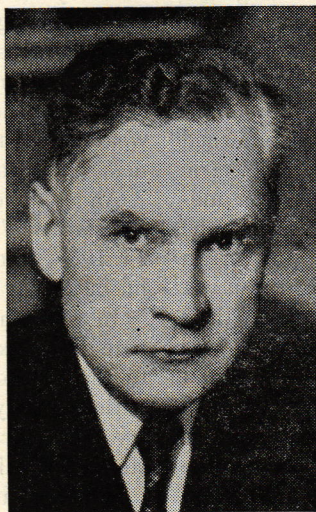
accomplished under law and the sanction of the courts, the claims of these companies that they are "heavy taxpayers" constitute about the cheapest bit of buffoonery the country has ever witnessed. They are not tax-payers. They are tax-collectors. They collect every penny of the taxes they pay from their customers, and merely pass these taxes on to the proper taxing agency. The next time any reader of this journal sees a big advertisement of a private power company in which it boasts about the taxes it pays, the facts will provide a complete refutation of that claim.

Hitler has given the world an illustration of how a falsehood, repeated frequently enough, takes on the aspect of truth in the minds of many folks. Pri-

ate power companies have spent huge sums of money advertising a virtue which they do not possess.

The federal government recently attempted to compel one big private power company to make some sort of tax contribution from its own profits, and objected to its passing on to consumers all the war taxes which the government was collecting.

The private power company stoutly re-



Federal Judge Bone

sisted the attempt of the federal government to make it pay any portion of its taxes out of company profits, but insisted upon a recognition of the rule that it be permitted to pass on to consumers *all* of these taxes. Under such conditions, it would make absolutely no difference to the company how much the taxes amounted to, as long as the owners of the power property were not compelled to contribute any part of them out of company profits. The company making this claim is typical of private power companies. Its name is the Potomac Electric Power Company, operating in the national capital.

Outside of the utility field, there is not a single business enterprise in America which operates under the sort of tax rules I have described. It is also of more than passing interest to note the fact that private power companies are also permitted to charge advertising to the consumer, and this sort of expenditure is regarded as an "operating expense."

If the light and power users in any community desire to establish a publicly owned power system, and they are buying electric energy from the usual private power monopoly in that section, they confront the fact that their light bills will contain an extra charge on them for advertising put out by the private company to block their efforts to create a publicly owned power system.

In fact, the regulatory systems set up to control these private power companies are so cleverly and cunningly devised that the private outfits are able to force the people, paying all too frequently an excessively high rate, to contribute to a publicity campaign against those striving for lower rates. Such advertising may also boast of the "high taxes" paid by the company. There is a grim sort of humor wrapped up in this kind of transaction.

Back in 1928, the private power companies of America got a nasty jolt when the Federal Trade Commission investigated their political methods and discovered how they were slipping their propaganda into

the schools through text books and by means of highly paid individuals connected with our educational system.

The nation will not forget the smooth voice of the "Old Counselor," who employed a national broadcast to point out the desirability of general purchase by the public of certain power securities, which later became worthless. If the recollection of the writer of this article serves him correctly, this dear soul, who so counseled the American people, had a background as an educator.

After the devastating disclosures of the Federal Trade Commission, the private power companies abandoned their national political propaganda organization and set up a new one called the Edison Electric Institute, which announced that it would no longer dip into politics and into our educational system.

It made a great pretense of discontinuing all the vicious practices which had horrified the American public. However, the practical men in the power field had no intention whatever of releasing their grip on a business so profitable as the power business.

An organ of the power industry, called the *Electrical World*, in its issue of October 14, 1933, pointed out that the power utility business was in politics.

In a lengthy editorial, it called upon private power executives to get into politics up to the eyebrows, and to staff each of the various utility enterprises around the country with executives who thoroughly understood the political game.

It called upon them to renounce their previous "incomplete, incorrect and amateurish" methods and develop a complete and thoroughly prepared political program leading to definite political action in the political arena.

A great program of advertising was to be one of the important factors in the new procedure. "District organizations" were suggested, in order to start at the very bottom to win elections.

On this point, the editorial suggested that "what needs to be done is to staff each local

property with 'political' executives, and permit them to build their political fences. Local tickets should be slated, and local platforms written for each community."

Following the old tactics, the "local platform" of the local politicians was to be written by the clever boys in the private power companies.

This interesting editorial called upon the company to enroll each employee in the political fight, and to put him to work, and announced frankly that this means that the utilities must make politics their major concern.

Not only are the records of the Federal Trade Commission replete with innumerable instances of private power companies expending large sums in political campaigns and charging these campaign expenditures to the light users, but these practices have continued.

The State of Washington, one of the great battlegrounds for public power, has in recent years seen private companies spend enormous sums of light users' money in political campaigns. There is nothing "amateurish" about these private power fellows. The editorial spokesman for the private power companies knew exactly what he was suggesting when he characterized what we now see by saying that "it means definite political action in the political arena."

The vast sums spent by private power companies to make and unmake men in public life, and to establish a dominant political control, constitute what is probably the largest expenditure for such purposes in our entire political history. The picture presented is a challenge which the American people may not, at their peril, overlook.

It will be interesting to watch the effects of the continuous barrage and drumfire of demand on the part of big business that the government "get out of business."

The popular view of the national capital

is that the government intends to dispose of emergency wartime plants in which it now has a huge investment.

If these are sold to private concerns for a small fraction of their cost, the transaction will precipitate a frightful scandal.

Signs multiply that this crusade will mask a cunningly contrived scheme to induce the Congress of the United States to sell outright to private power companies all of the electric power agencies of the government, including such properties as TVA, Bonneville, Grand Coulee, Central Valley of California and others.

One need only scan the debates now filling the pages of the Congressional Record to reach the inescapable conclusion that when this movement toward the elimination of the federal government from various forms of activity in which it is now involved gets into full swing, one of the first points of attack will be our public power agencies.

If the program to destroy these federal power agencies is successful, the American people will have lost in one fell swoop all that has been gained in this field by years of fighting. It would not take them very long to wake up with the ashes of despair in their mouths, but it would then be too late to undo the frightful blunder.

The recent speech of the head of Electric Bond and Share Company, pointing out to his stockholders that the government should get entirely out of the power business and sell its magnificent power facilities to private companies, coupled with the obvious state of mind of a large number of men in the Congress, spells out a savage attack on public power in the near future. This attack will take the form of a demand for the sale of these plants.

In the midst of a bloody war, in which the boys of America are dying to give other men all over the world the right to vote as free men and select the kind of government

they want, we confront the mournful fact that in many sections of this country less than 50 per cent of our qualified electors have voted in general elections.

These stay-at-home voters are applying in reverse a sort of poll tax restriction to themselves—in this instance it is a voluntary operation. If a member of Congress introduced a bill disfranchising one-half the qualified electors, he would be removed from public life as quickly as the voters could get at him. It will always remain an astounding manifestation of our political life that

we all too frequently voluntarily disfranchise ourselves.

If this state of indifference continues, the ultimate price exacted of us will be tragic.

The only way we can hope to preserve the worth-while things in government is to protect them by our ballots.

In no other way can the fundamental rights and liberties of the people be preserved.

Decency and honesty in government will perish if the people become indifferent to their duties as citizens.

Refer Appeals for Funds to International

As at all times, but especially during the war, there are all kinds of letters and appeals going out for contributions to our local unions for this cause and that cause. Nearly all of them are fakes. The International Union makes a study of who is right and who is wrong, and before any local union contributes to any kind of cause or complies with any request for funds or donations, they should first consult the International Office. We know of one or two cases in which funds were solicited recently where the appeal was made on downright falsehoods. This is nothing more nor less than a racket.

The International Union gives as much local autonomy to its local unions as possible, but we shall insist that where there is any kind of solicitation of funds from unions or other groups, that you first consult the International Union as to who they are and

whether or not it would be advisable to give them anything. You may be contributing to an organization which aims at the destruction of your local union and your International Union. This, of course, does not apply to a local union on strike, looking for help, which strike has the sanction of the Joint Council, and which local is affiliated with the International Union.

We do not want to give publicity to some of the appeals that have been sent out in recent months because that is what they would like, but we repeat, in our judgment they are nothing more nor less than personal rackets, an endeavor to plead to the liberal-minded trade unionists under one pretense or another, and they never make any accounting of what they do with the money. First, don't be a sucker, and, second, don't help a mob that may be against you and our country.

Clean Out this Congressional Stable!

THIS 78th Congress is one of the most vacillating and puerile legislative assemblies which has ever plagued the United States in an urgent hour. It contains too many senators and representatives who are unfit and undeserving of the high honor and duties the people have accorded them.

The two iniquitous tax bills, the abolition of useful federal agencies such as the Farm Security Administration, the refusal to pass

an anti-poll tax and fair soldier vote bill, the most recent effort to hamstring the TVA all indicate that the greatest responsibility which faces the American people is to clean out this Augean stable and elect to office men who understand the principles involved and the earth-shaking tasks which lie ahead of this nation, and who will face them unflinching and unafraid.—*St. Louis Labor Tribune.*

Roosevelt Shares Responsibility

Republicans Given Important War Jobs

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

I DO NOT believe our people and the nation fully understand that the management of this war is as much in the hands of the Republicans as it is in the hands of the Democrats. The Senate and the House are pretty strongly Republican, and in there they have many Democrats who are antagonistic to the administration, enough to overrule the administration. They are doing that now every day in the week. And there are also both Republicans and reactionary Democrats lining up in one solid mass against labor.

It should be remembered that President Roosevelt wanted, and did, share the responsibility of running this war with the Republican leaders of the nation whom he believed had experience and were capable of service.

The secretary of war, Mr. Stimson, has been a life-long Republican and was secretary of war under a Republican administration.

The secretary of the navy, Mr. Knox, has been a life-long Republican and was, at the time he was appointed, the editor and principal owner of the *Chicago Daily News*, a Republican newspaper. The army and the navy have to do with 80 per cent of the war. Our air forces are under the direction of a military man whom we know, although he does not express himself, is an out-and-out Republican. Then there is General MacArthur, who has charge of all the Pacific warfare, a very fine man. He is being mentioned as a candidate for the Republican nomination.

Why is it then that so many people insist on preaching the doctrine that a small gang in Washington who surround the President is running the war? As a matter of fact, there is some dissatisfaction existing among

the leaders of the Democratic Party because so many Republicans have been called into the picture and given responsible positions of trust.

Then let's see who went to Europe to represent the President. Willkie has been over there twice, both in Europe and Asia, and had letters of introduction which gave him an entree to all the big men conducting the war in Europe. And don't think Willkie didn't capitalize on this publicity.

We all know he had a staff of newspaper writers with him and his own publicity bureau, and while some of us were advised to keep our movements somewhat secret, Willkie's movements were known two and three days ahead of schedule.

That is, if he was in Moscow, and was to be in Hong Kong the next day, the matter was given out to the press. If he had had brass bands with him his movements could not have been more thoroughly acclaimed. Then there was Pat Hurley, an ex-secretary of war in a Republican administration. He was over there several times and is now over there; and by the way, Pat Hurley is doing a good job.

Then we had Myron Taylor, former head of the United States Steel Corporation and a life-long Republican. He was twice sent to Rome as the unofficial ambassador of the President, to talk with the heads of the Catholic Church and to find out and report back to the President anything else worth reporting.

I repeat, the Democrats are sore. Whether they have a right to be or not is another question. But all of those men named above did all in their power to defeat Roosevelt in each of his elections.

What Roosevelt has endeavored to do, as I interpret the situation, is to share the

responsibility of the war with all classes in our country, because all classes, people and interests are involved. But day after day there are statements made about "that gang of Roosevelt's in Washington, etc. . . ."

I think these facts should be known, and personally I think that when you have a serious strike on in the industrial world, factionalism within unions should be set aside and all should put their shoulders to

the wheel to help win the conflict for the interests of all those involved.

And in a larger sense of the word, when the whole world is in danger, all parties that can render assistance, and all classes whose brains and intelligence and experience can be used to advantage should be called in to help in the conflict, a conflict which means the future freedom of our country and the continued civilization of the world.

Cowardly Congressman Squirms

Labor Papers Expose Compton's Record

BY LESTER M. HUNT

CONGRESSMAN RANULF COMPTON of Connecticut is squirming like an angle worm in the sunlight. Which is not surprising, in view of his record.

After less than two years in Congress, Compton has the questionable distinction of being the only Connecticut congressman unanimously condemned by the Connecticut Federation of Labor, according to *The Union Times* of New Haven, Conn.

Congress no doubt has worse members than Compton, but it is doubtful if any of them got so bad so fast.

Compton wrote a vitriolic letter to THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER because of the vote listed in the March issue which showed him voting for a proposal to dispose of the soldier vote bill secretly without a roll call.

In other words, Compton did not want anyone to know how he voted on the question of votes for soldiers.

This idea came from the Republicans, who wanted to disfranchise the soldiers without incurring their wrath. It passed, with the help of southern Democrats.

As was said in the March issue, "it was the most cowardly act in the history of a cowardly Congress."

And we printed the record to expose the cowardly men who favored it, along with the courageous men who opposed it.

Compton was listed among the cowards.

The Union Times reprinted our roll call of Connecticut congressmen, all of whom voted wrong with the exception of Mrs. Luce, who didn't vote.

Compton then wrote *The Union Times* charging that its article was based on "misinformation" carried in THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER. Compton lied. Furthermore, he knew he lied. He was merely trying to cover his record in the maze of parliamentary procedure by which he, and men like him, tried to disfranchise the men in uniform.

We said Compton voted to kill the soldier vote bill secretly.

The record proves it. Later Compton voted for the bill when he knew the soldiers were watching him. He didn't have the guts to do publicly what he tried to do secretly.

If he is for a "soldiers' rights" bill instead of a phoney "states' rights" bill, why did he vote for a measure to kill it secretly?

The truth, as exposed by his vote on that measure, is that Compton does not want the soldiers to vote because he knows they are for President Roosevelt. He also knows they are against men who try to squirm and crawl out of responsibility for their cowardly acts.

But Connecticut labor knows this man

Compton. *The Union Times* brands him with the mark of his masters. Here's what it says about him in its issue of April 8:

"We think Compton had better start another letter to us and to THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER, because its April issue indicates that he is among the representatives who, in voting to override President Roosevelt's veto of the tax bill, backed the greedy, not the needy.

"Add to this the fact that Compton has voted against food subsidies, against price rollbacks, against the limitation of salaries beyond \$61,000 a year, voted for the vicious

Smith-Connally anti-labor law, for the Hobbs bill and we are forced to the conclusion that Compton, indeed, protests too much.

"More than ever we are convinced that the Connecticut Federation of Labor was right in unanimously condemning Compton for his anti-labor, anti-common people voting record in Congress.

"Let it be remembered that he was the only Connecticut representative so designated."

No wonder he squirms when the sunlight hits him.

Endorse Roosevelt as Man Who Helped Labor

WHEN this International Union speaks of the progress made by labor under the leadership of the head of the nation, and when some of its officers say something favorable to the head of the nation, that should not be accepted as an endorsement of all the individual office holders within the party. For instance, if we should say something as to our belief in the helpfulness received by labor from President Roosevelt, don't let it be understood that we endorse all the members of his party, or the party as a whole. We endorse the individual, and that is the policy that should be pursued.

Our General Executive Board at its recent meeting gave no expression of any kind as to the endorsement of any individual or party. When the conventions of both parties are held, when they make their decla-

rations, select their candidates, and when we study their platforms, then we may have something to say as to who is the best man or the best platform for labor. Let this be distinctly understood, that our first consideration is not political office holders or political parties.

Our first and continued consideration will be the best candidate or platform—as we see the light—for the working people of the nation, and especially for the members of our own International Union, who come so much under federal and state regulation.

The heads of your International Union, as far as I know them, seek no office, seek no government position, seek no remuneration. What we want is fair play and just consideration for the toilers of the nation.—D. J. T.

Many Teamsters Are Serving in Italy

THE ranks of combat troops in Italy are filled with Teamsters, according to Sgt. August H. Sansone, Pittsburgh Teamster, in a letter to International headquarters.

"I just received the November and February issues of our magazine and I want to thank you very much for such interesting material," he wrote from Italy.

"Also, all the boys here enjoy them. We are always looking forward to our next copy. I never realized such a large number of our boys were in the service.

"I'm happy to know that the Teamsters are well represented in this fight for everlasting peace and that day can't come too soon for any of us."

Teamsters' Union Supports Russia

Crushed Trotsky Move Aimed at Joseph Stalin

THE International Union is proud of its stand in behalf of Russia. While we cannot agree with the form of labor movement in Russia and we hope that some day the workers in Russia will be given the right to establish their own free labor unions when the war is ended, it is our duty to continue to the very end to do everything we can to help the Russian people who are fighting for the freedom of their native land and for the freedom of the world, from the unjust, unholy monsters of war led by Hitler and Tojo.

Some time ago an attempt to create an organization within this International Brotherhood of Teamsters, led by certain undesirable elements in Minneapolis and New York against the Russian government was crushed by the International officers.

This organization endeavored to force our members to pay dues for its maintenance and support in order to hold membership in good standing in our International Union, and it was aimed directly at the Stalin government of Russia, which government was recognized by the government of the United States and Great Britain.

When this attempt was made your International officials did everything in their power to prevent such organization from functioning and collecting sums of money from our membership, to be used against Joseph Stalin.

We know of no other labor union in America that did likewise, although undoubtedly there must have been some members of this outfit within several other International Unions. Our members innocently became part of it in many places because they were advised to do so and compelled to do so by those who held positions of trust in our membership in Minneapolis. Some of those men who betrayed their unions were afterwards found guilty of embezzle-

ment of the funds of the organization in Minneapolis.

It should be kept in mind that while we were negotiating with the Dunnes and their associates, who were supposed to be representing the best interests of Local No. 544 but who in reality were representing the Trotsky organization with headquarters in Mexico and New York City, which was opposed to the Stalin government, they walked across the street from our offices in the Bowen Building in Washington, where we were in conference, into another labor organization office and received a charter.

Talk about raiding. Talk about decent unionism. The worst enemies of the workers could not do anything as disgusting.

The action taken by the general executive board at that time was to send Organizer Beck to Minneapolis for the purpose of requesting and ordering the officers of Local No. 544 to cease and desist forcing our members in Local No. 544 and other unions to pay dues into the Trotsky outfit.

Organizer Beck was advised upon his arrival that they had already gone into the CIO. The point we are trying to make is that they had left us and received a charter from the other organization before the International executive board had even considered suspending them from membership in the union.

Here we have the betrayal of the labor movement by a very few individuals, just the same as the people of France were betrayed by those whom they selected to represent them.

Don't forget these things, because some day other attempts will be made to betray you by some few within as well as those without our movement. Watch your union, now and at all times, if you desire the protection and the safety of yourself and those dependent upon you.

"Speedup" Bedeaux Was a Fascist!

Influenced British Throne through Mrs. Simpson

BY DOROTHY THOMPSON

The following article by Miss Thompson on the Fascist manipulations of Charles Bedeaux, the arch enemy of labor, was given originally over the radio in her Sunday evening broadcast, shortly after Bedeaux's suicide. We asked her for permission to publish it because it is a scandalous exposé of how Fascism wars on democracy throughout the world. Bedeaux was a Fascist. Therefore, naturally, he was an enemy of labor. And a traitor to his country!

THIS is the finale of a long story, which had its origin in the prewar period of appeasement and of Fascist plottings between Hitler's Reich and France and Britain.

The Bedeaux story takes on particular interest, however, because it involved the former king of England, Edward the Eighth, now Duke of Windsor.

Charles Bedeaux was a naturalized American citizen, born in France. In this country he made a fortune, and with it returned to Europe, although he kept up his connections in American industrial circles.

For Bedeaux belonged among those men—big business men of international connections, who before this war and during it, have played the German game. Sometimes they have been both business men and politicians—but usually they have been men who did jobs for pro-Nazi politicians.

In situations where normal diplomatic channels of communication with the Nazis were politically unwise, these men did the job—across dinner tables and through social connections. They are enormously rich men, who often have houses in many countries, and enjoy almost the privileges of citizens in many countries.

Thus Charles Bedeaux had a castle or chateau near Tours, in France, and in 1937 he secured a home in Berchtesgaden in the shadow of Hitler's famous "Eagle's Nest." And there he became an intimate of Abetz, the leading Nazi conspirator in France, who afterward became Hitler's ambassador in defeated France.

Another of his good friends was Captain Carl Wiedemann, Hitler's friend from the days of the first World War, and for some time German consul general in San Francisco, and one of the chiefs of the German spy net in the United States.

But peculiar interest attaches to Bedeaux because of his connections with the British throne.

Charles Bedeaux had been an old and very intimate friend of Mrs. Simpson, whose marriage to Edward VIII cost him his throne. It was through Mrs. Simpson that Bedeaux met Ribbentrop, the German ambassador to London. It was through Bedeaux, Ribbentrop and Mrs. Simpson that a scandal developed around the person of the King, that had far greater roots in these political connections than in the fact that Mrs. Simpson was an American, a divorcee, and unacceptable to the Church of England.

Behind the scenes, what was bothering the British Foreign Office and all informed circles, was not these purely personal matters, but the King's connections, through Mrs. Simpson, to German Nazi circles.

When the King abdicated, in December, 1936, under all these suspicions, Mrs. Simpson, in the following March, took refuge in the handsome house of Bedeaux, and in that house in the following June, the great romance was consummated in a wedding.

During this time the King had gone to Austria—to the castle of Baron Eugene

Rothschild, near Vienna. Since the Rothschilds were a prominent Jewish family, this seemed to alibi the former King's Nazi connections. Actually, the Duke of Windsor invited himself to the Rothschilds "to stay a few days" under pledges of the greatest secrecy—even the servants must not know who he was. But instead of staying a few days, he stayed seven months—until his wedding.

Shortly after the wedding, the Duke and Duchess went to Germany on a tour arranged for by Robert Ley, the Nazi chief of the Labor Front—a trip which horrified his former Austrian hosts, as well as the royal family in Britain. This trip of the Duke and Duchess was paid for by the Nazis—a fact which was known to anti-Nazi Germans and plunged them into despair—and it was repaid by highly laudatory statements by the Duke on Nazi achievements in Germany.

Who could have arranged this trip? No doubt Mr. Bedeaux, who at the time was living in his house in Berchtesgaden.

It is very interesting that the Duke praised the social and labor achievements of the Nazi regime, whereas Bedeaux is regarded in labor circles everywhere, and especially in America, as a labor-hater and baiter and as the inventor of a speedup efficiency system for getting more out of labor, which laid the foundation of his fortune.

In fact, hostility to Bedeaux was so strong in this country that when he arrived here in the fall of 1937, straight from Berchtesgaden, with the plan that the Duke should follow his trip around Nazi Germany with an investigation into labor conditions in the United States, a popular protest prevented the trip.

When France fell in 1940, Bedeaux remained in his house in Tours, which was in the unoccupied zone. And now, according to reports from Miami, he became a mediator between Vichy and the Germans—just as Axel Wennergren, the leading Swedish industrialist now living in Nassau and also

another intimate friend of the Duke of Windsor, was a mediator between Goering and the Chamberlain government, according to his own statements.

Bedeaux's old friend, Abetz, was now Nazi ambassador to France, which Bedeaux's machinations had helped to bring under the Nazi heel. In July, 1941, Bedeaux went to North Africa, on German business. It concerned the protection against bombing of important economic properties in North Africa and in the Persian Gulf.

For two months after Pearl Harbor, Bedeaux was kept under house arrest by the Vichy government and then released—to continue his relationship with Vichy and German officials. He managed to have important files from his Amsterdam office transferred to Paris through the intervention of German officials and turned over to his brother Gaston, who was a French citizen.

In the summer of 1942, shortly before the Anglo-American invasion of North Africa, he returned there on presumably a Vichy mission, after which he was appointed expert on economic projects to the German military administration in France and gained authority from Laval to carry through a project he had proposed. That summer Laval provided Bedeaux with documents ordering the French military and political authorities in North Africa to collaborate with him.

He was in Algiers when the British and American forces invaded—occupying the same hotel as the German military mission.

He was arrested. But because he was an American citizen, the United States Department of Justice dispatched by plane to Algiers some of our most able and important investigators, among them Percy Foxworth, assistant director of the FBI, who had done much to uncover Nazi espionage in this country. Strangely enough the plane carrying him never reached its destination. It crashed over the Brazilian jungle. That was at the time of the Casablanca conference. Since then more than a year has passed.

Now there is no question that fantastic facts would have been revealed about the structure of international Fascism and its ramifications into very high places, if Bedeaux had ever been put on trial.

Except for the incident that he had become naturalized in the United States in 1917, he would have been under the jurisdiction of the Free French, and General De Gaulle would certainly have liked to put him on trial. Just why he was still considered an American citizen is not clear, since naturalized citizens are usually deprived of their citizenship if they remain residents abroad for more than two years, in the country of their birth.

Nor do we learn from the newspaper reports from Miami where he has been for the last year—the investigations opened only seven weeks ago. It is too bad that so important a prisoner was allowed to have in his possession sufficient luminal with which to kill himself, and so close the books on a most extraordinary case.

And it is also strange that though the United States authorities intended to indict Bedeaux for high treason, our government continues to intervene to prevent De Gaulle from bringing the same indictment against other men, of precisely Bedeaux's activities, whom the Free French have under arrest in North Africa—notably Flandin, Boisson and Peyrouton.

With the same logic, if Bedeaux had not been an American citizen, but a French citizen, De Gaulle would not have been able to haul him before the courts. Actually, had he lived to testify, his testimony might seriously have involved all these people held by De Gaulle, and a great many other people as well.

Up until now, not a single one of the prominent international figures—wealthy business men—who, like Bedeaux, were involved in Fascist machi-

nations contributing to the fall of France, have been arrested in *any* country . . . except in North Africa by De Gaulle, who has actually been criticized for it.

There seems to be reluctance in all countries to allow the true facts about the prelude to this war to come before the public, especially when they involve persons of great wealth and high social connections.

But the Bedeaux story makes it clear beyond question of a doubt that the collapse of France was not just a military affair. Nor do I believe that the Bedeaux case is closed with the death of Bedeaux. The investigations will go on—even without Bedeaux. The invading armies will find new evidence, and no one will be able to prevent future governments in France and elsewhere from opening the archives.

It must not be forgotten that one of the first things the Germans demanded, after conquering France, was that the members of the French cabinet of the Third Republic should be arrested and tried for treason against France. Deladier, Leon Blum, Georges Mandel and General Gamelin were all arrested and tried at Riom. None of them committed suicide. All of them faced the court—and the case collapsed.

But the Vichy government did not let them free. It kept them—to fall into the hands of the Germans when they occupied the whole of France. Mandel died shortly thereafter in a German prison. He was a Frenchman who could have told a tale and not a pretty one. What has become of the others nobody knows.

But the motto of the Czech Republic is, "Truth Prevails." And therefore before this war and this era are over, let us hope that it will prevail. If it does, the world will get some very bad shocks.

Congress is under attack because it has forfeited its right to respect and trust, because it has abused wartime exigencies to serve predatory rather than national interests, because it is concerned in only maintaining and extending its own narrow opportunities regardless of just national interests—*St. Louis Labor Tribune*.

Ford Peddles Peace Rumors

— Maybe He's Fixing up Another Peace Ship

BY DANIEL J. TOBIN

KNOWING Henry Ford as we have for the past 40 years, knowing his foolishness at many times during those 40 years, knowing how ridiculous his actions and his expressions have been from time to time, we were not surprised when we read a statement the other day—a foolish statement, a statement that can cause injury to the country—where Mr. Ford is reported to have said that the war would be over in two months.

Well, Henry Ford has made himself dangerously ridiculous in the past. We distinctly remember during the last war, before we entered it, how he got up a Peace Ship and loaded all the philosophical freaks and sentimental monstrosities into it and started them to Europe to end the war then raging throughout the greater part of the European continent.

We also remember how these pacifists, who were going over there to tell the Kaiser, the King of England, and the President of France how easily the war could be ended, started fighting amongst themselves on board the Ship of Peace and when they landed on the other side they immediately started to disband and each endeavored to get home in his own separate way or as best he could. Henry's Ship of Peace and all the money it involved was the biggest joke that we had during that serious time.

Then we remember how Henry started a newspaper at his own expense, which was aimed at driving all the Jews out of America. Forgetting all the great things that great race has done, Henry claimed that the Jewish people were the curse of the nation. Of course he made himself ridiculous again, but he created prejudice amongst the ignorant for a short time.

We remember how he brought suit against the *Chicago Tribune* for making certain

statements against him. Amongst them was that he was thoroughly ignorant of the affairs of life and that he knew nothing except the making of automobiles and the handling of the finances necessary to run a corporation.

We remember reading the evidence at the trial, and how the attorneys for the *Chicago Tribune* asked him questions that could be answered by a youngster in the seventh grade of grammar school.

One of the questions was, "Who was Benedict Arnold?"

And lo and behold, Henry Ford did not know the answer.

Later on, in dealing with one of our employers, the writer of this article personally met this same attorney. The writer said to the attorney that he should have had more mercy on this man who had created an automobile that was helpful to the masses of the working people and had endeavored to pay fairly decent wages, even though he had established an unnecessary speed-up system in his plants.

The attorney (he was in the office of the writer at the time) said, "You don't know the half of it. I really laid off him because I pitied him. I could have embarrassed him much more."

I believe that lawyer is still alive and living in Chicago. Of course the evidence and the cross-examination of Mr. Ford in that particular case is a matter of court record.

We only mention these facts just now to try and inform our people who may not know the past history of Mr. Ford, how ridiculous and how foolish this statement is that he is charged with having made to some newspaper men regarding the immediate ending of the war.

We sympathize with the man in the recent

loss of his son, and perhaps that has had some effect on his nervous system, as it would on any one of us who are fathers.

But because of the great responsibility that is his as a business man and financier in the eyes of the public, he should be extremely careful about making such dangerous statements.

In other words, he should "button up his mouth" as far as the war is concerned, because he knows nothing about it. He only knows how to make a success of the manufacturing institution with which he is connected.

The danger of such a statement—"the war will be over in two months"—is that many people will believe it and attempt to regulate their affairs accordingly.

In other words, it will take the heart out of many people who should do more than they are doing to help the war effort until it comes to a successful ending. We would rejoice if we believed there was any possible chance for the ending of the war in that short time.

From the determined resistance of the German armies in Italy, hundreds of miles away from the German center of production, we can realize how difficult it will be to overcome the enemy.

Bombing Germany out of the war has been declared at this particular writing to be almost impossible. While it may seriously inconvenience the German war effort, no one—not even the President of the United States, the leader of the British gov-

ernment, Mr. Churchill, nor any of our generals—has the least remote idea of how long this war may last or how soon it may end.

The best anyone can do is make a guess, and wise men who know something of the situation are not guessing, because guessing at this dangerous time may be the means of deceiving the people.

But if the war were to end next year or the year after in Europe, what about Japan?

We know the doctrine of those people is to die, every one of them, before they would surrender.

We are six or seven thousand miles away from the Island of Japan, and Japan has control of more than one-half of the great Chinese country. Japan has unlimited territory that is entirely under their control. We must drive them back mile by mile and destroy them as we drive them back with our armies and our air forces.

Anyone who thinks that the Japanese can be subdued in two months, and makes such a statement, should really be held, to say the least, as irresponsible; or in other words, might we insinuate that such a statement from an old man may be a symptom of senility.

We hope and trust that the great masses of the people of our country will pay no attention to such a statement as is attributed by certain newspapers throughout the nation to Henry Ford.

Spangler Promotes Racial Antagonisms

HARRISON SPANGLER, the bumbling chairman of the Republican party, has unwittingly—as usual—revealed the men running the Republican party would wreck unity in this country for the sake of electing its candidate for the presidency.

When Spangler came out the other day with a statement to the effect the Republicans would gain votes because of the admin-

istration's handling of incidents with respect to Italy, Eire and Poland, he revealed a crassness that was characteristic of the days when Hoover ran the bonus army out of Washington. To appeal for votes on a basis of old-world ties is to set race against race, stir up bigotry and disunity that would be disastrous to this country's prosecution of the war.—*Minnesota Teamster*.

Tobin Answers Rickenbacker

The following exchange of letters between President Tobin and Eddie Rickenbacker is self-explanatory. They are reproduced for the information of the membership.

Eastern Air Lines Building
10 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, New York
March 13, 1944

Mr. Daniel J. Tobin
The International Teamster
222 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis 4, Indiana
My dear Mr. Tobin:

I have just read an article by you entitled "Prepare for Unemployment" in THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER.

Your advice is good and I wish there were more of your type of thinker and actor in our labor movement.

I realize that this, coming from one who has been considered the arch enemy of labor, and a labor-baiter by certain associations, may seem to you like "carrying coal to Newcastle," but believe me, I mean it.

Sincerely,

E. V. RICKENBACKER,
President and General Manager.

March 21, 1944.

Mr. E. V. Rickenbacker, President
Eastern Air Lines, Inc.
10 Rockefeller Plaza
New York 20, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Rickenbacker:

This will acknowledge your letter of March 13, 1944, in which you state that you have read an article written by me in THE INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER of January, 1944, and in which you commend me for the message that I tried to convey to our people.

Of course I appreciate your approval very much. Words of encouragement are always welcome to all of us, no matter how small or how big we are.

More than once I have intended writing to you about the attitude you have taken on your return from your awful experience when your plane was wrecked. I listened to your address in the Scottish Rite Cathedral in Indianapolis last year, and in all my years of experience, knowing men in every branch of life, from the largest employers, the most outstanding political office holders, down to the smallest and most humble workman, I never heard or listened to anything so disappointing.

I took the matter up with some very close friends of mine, business officials, and told them that it didn't do our capital and labor movement any good in this district; and they admitted openly to me that the understanding they had with you had been violated.

At that particular time we were trying to get labor, capital and the government to work together in this district in Indiana—as we were throughout the nation—and, to use the language of the street, you certainly threw a monkey wrench, for the time being, into our sincere efforts in behalf of our country.

I have been a friend for many years of the company which you represent, and our International Union and its officers are continually patronizing air transportation. Of course I realize the company needs no patronage just now, but in its hungry days when it was exposed very often to unjust criticism, I was one of those, with my associates, who defended the efforts of the company.

I might state right here that when you went around the country lecturing against labor, in my judgment it was neither helpful to our government nor to the institution which you have the honor to represent.

How could you be so blinded and so thoroughly prejudiced against the masses of the workers is more than I can understand.

I happened to know you when you were a toiler yourself, working hard for a living, when you were one of those struggling for the sunlight and for an opportunity to live. Then the complete change in your attitude and expressions, and your position since your return from your awful experience in the Orient, is almost impossible for me to understand.

There are perhaps twelve or thirteen million trade unionists employed every day in the year since the beginning of the war. Their influence has had a sobering effect upon the unorganized. The first thing the men of labor did when we were creating the War Labor Board was to pledge ourselves, as much as it was humanly possible to do so, to prevent strikes.

You must bear this in mind: that you cannot take five or six hundred thousand men, or one thousand men, in an organization, by the throats and chain them to the machines and compel them to work against their wishes.

You must also understand that within the large body of toilers—as there are in all large bodies of human beings—there are a few who do not fully understand the problems of life and the dangers surrounding the nation in a period of war.

Most of those men are honest; others are unduly influenced by the thousands of agents of enemy governments who are working beside them and who are spreading their poisonous doctrines continually.

In every vocation of life we have had a certain small percentage of those whom you and I would term weaklings, or enemies of the nation to which they owe their freedom. But the rank and file, the great masses of the toilers, the men and women composing the labor organizations, were governed by their leadership and complied with their call to stay on the job no matter what their grievances were.

Because one large organization and one

or two leaders in that organization seemed to the public not to have respected the pledge made by the men of labor to our government at the beginning of the war, all of labor has been condemned.

Now then, if one senator or congressman sells out his country and plays false to his obligation, should the other senators and congressmen be condemned? If a few in the church or the legal fraternity should betray their vows, their solemn and binding oaths and obligations, should the large body of the church or legal fraternity be condemned? Of course they should not.

But your analysis of labor was so unreasonable, as exemplified by your addresses, that most of the toilers believed that you were in the pay of the enemies of labor or that you had become somewhat mentally affected as a result of your awful, frightful experience.

Let me repeat again that the leaders of labor are not superhuman and that there have been some slight stoppages of work. They were very few and they were against the wishes of labor leaders in most instances, and when those stoppages took place, the responsible labor officials, locally and nationally, endeavored as much as possible to stop strikes.

I wish you would also bear this in mind: that not all employers, but many of them, have irritated and goaded and defied their workers to go on strike, claiming that they could not do so because their leaders had pledged the government there would be no strikes. I have had many instances where men had earned their wages and overtime but the employers refused to pay the money on one pretense or another, and dared the men to go on strike.

Of course you know nothing about this; and where you must be condemned is that you did not try to find out what was going on within the great organized bodies of the toilers of the nation.

You took everything for granted that you read in the newspapers, which publicized in large type some strike, be it big or small,

and refused to publish the successful efforts of the men of labor to hold the many millions of organized workers on the job.

Bear in mind that this country is the country of the toilers as well as the country of those who enjoy large salaries and wealth; that the backbone of this nation is made up of the men and women who work; that the millions who compose our armies come from the families of the workers; and that the prize at stake—freedom, justice and continued civilization—is fully understood by the masses of the toilers.

And they also understand—because it has been sent home to them day after day—that because the toilers compose 99 per cent of the American people, their interests are the interests that are mostly involved in this great world struggle.

Capital has been created by the hands, the brains and the toil of the workers. Capital would be useless without labor. We need both, but we need honest capital properly managed and not capital and big business that is allowed to run riot throughout the nation for the one purpose of making money for its top officials and for its stockholders.

Believe me when I say to you that the greatest fight is yet to come, after unconditional surrender has been agreed to

When the millions of men and women engaged now in this struggle run the risk of unemployment as they did after the last war, then it will be most difficult to control those men and women who have offered up their lives on the battlefields and on the oceans of the world and who have engaged themselves in an endless struggle, working night and day, on the industrial battlefields so that the freedom of this nation might be preserved, and justice and free democratic

governments might obtain throughout the world.

The marvel of this war has been the miraculous production of the toilers of the nation, as explained and exemplified by Mr. Nelson, Mr. Kaiser, yes, even by the President of the United States, because it will go down in history that were it not for the production and the faithful adherence to their duty by the masses of the American workers in the war industries, mostly organized, there would have been no hope for the men across the seas who are carrying the battle to the door of the enemy.

Even in England, a small country composed mainly of one kind of people, a country that had been in the war more than two years before the United States entered, they have had their small percentage of stoppages of work; and in proportion to the number of people employed, I think I can safely say there have been more man hours lost in that country than there have been in our country as a result of strikes; and in that country, as in ours, the leaders of the unions have in the main opposed strikes and helped to bring them to an end as quickly as possible.

It would be well for you, who come from a family of workers, who toiled as hard as you did here in Indiana, to go out and preach the doctrine of better understanding between capital, labor and the government, rather than to take the position which you took some months ago in denouncing labor unions and everything connected with labor unions.

Sincerely yours,

DANIEL J. TOBIN,
General President.

•
Congressman Rockwell calls attention to the fact—he says it's a fact—that all the Presidents from Washington to Franklin Roosevelt vetoed a total of fifty-two bills, while Franklin Roosevelt alone has vetoed six hundred. All right, what does that prove? That F. D. R. has had the rottenest congress to deal with, and some to spare, since George Washington.—*Dolores (Colo.) Star*.

•
The Texas Federation of Labor has followed the lead of the Louisiana State Federation of Labor and reindorsed President Roosevelt for a fourth term, or until the peace of the world is once more assured.—*The Louisiana Federationist*.

Out of the Gutter—Into G O P

GERALD L. K. (KK) SMITH gloats over the defeat of Willkie in Wisconsin. He says it is a victory for the America First party. If it is, it is also a defeat for the Republican party.

Smith's statement is significant because it indicates that he feels himself strong enough to openly brag of his influence over the Republicans. His statement proves that the Kluxers, Fascists, America Firsters and assorted seditionists are now boldly working inside the Republican party.

The Republicans must want this type of support because nobody in authority has attempted to throw them back into the gutters from which they climbed. Maybe they didn't climb. Maybe they just rolled over and found themselves in the Republican party.

In either case, that's where they are now and that's where they intend to stay, according to Smith.

If they do stay, it will mean that the Republican party has adopted policies and candidates which are satisfactory to Col. Robert Rutherford McCormick of the *Chicago Tribune*. It will mean that the Republican party has discarded its principles and adopted the editorial page of the *Chicago Tribune* as its campaign platform.

The *Chicago Tribune*, like Smith, gloated over the success of Gov. Dewey in Wisconsin. Does that mean that McCormick and Smith have adopted Dewey along with Senator Nye of North Dakota, Congressman Clare Hoffman of Michigan and Congressman Stephen A. Day of Illinois?

Will Dewey stand on the same platform with Nye, who openly advocates Fascism in Germany, and attempt to get votes from the pro-Germans who support Nye?

Will he stand with Hoffman and attempt to get votes from the enemies of labor who are supporting Hoffman as they are Nye?

Will he swallow Day, who cabled congratulations to Hitler?

The time has come for Dewey to say something that will indicate what kind of support he wants in the coming presidential campaign. Or will ANY support be appreciated?

The time has also come for the Republican party to define its position. Will it adopt a platform intended to catch the votes of loyal Americans while its leaders make secret deals with men like Smith, Nye, McCormick, Hoffman and Day?

Gerald L. K. (KK) Smith has forced the issue. He says the Republican party is his party.

What do the Republicans say?

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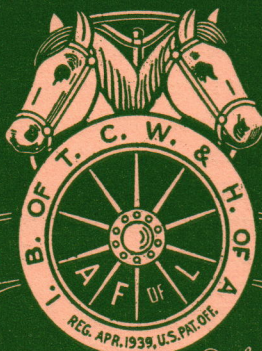
JOHN M. GILLESPIE, Secretary

222 EAST MICHIGAN STREET

INDIANAPOLIS 4, INDIANA

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